

TOMBSTONE EPITAPH.

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF COCHISE COUNTY

It must be a terrible mental strain on a man to edit a crockery store and newspaper at the same time.

On account of this being St. Patrick's day, no paper will be issued from this office to-morrow. We have some respect for St. Patrick, if the mayor of New York has not.

"On, Stanley, on! Charge, Chester, charge!" By the way, how does it suit the party of great moral ideas to have their Republicanism dished up by a life-long Democrat?

If the appointment to the Major Generalship in the regular army, which will be made vacant by the retirement of General Terry, were left to a popular vote of the people of the Southwest, where both officers are well known, General Miles would get too many votes to Crook's one. But of course the people will not be consulted by their servants.

Public Printer Benedict affirms that he has observed the Civil Service Law during his incumbency of office, and that he had "only" two relatives in the printing office in his employ.—Los Angeles Times.

Pshaw! that's nothing. Arizona has a Benedict on the Supreme Bench who has provided all his wife's relatives with fat offices, and you cannot find the name of one of them on the Great Register. This is a great reform administration surely.

The burro of the Tombstone Prospector strayed away last week for two days, and the consequence was that on Friday and Saturday no paper was issued from the office of that truly good journal. On Sunday, however, the versatile Stanley C. Baggs, shied his castor into the ring and the paper has appeared with astonishing regularity every day this week. The EPITAPH had thought that all the amateurs in Southern Arizona had been given a trial at the newspaper business, and it will wait with eager expectancy the outcome of the present venture. At the same time, the Prospector under the present management has the best wishes of the EPITAPH.

The cat is at last out of the Baggs—as witness the following:

The political party which gives to the people a ticket composed of the most progressive citizens of this county to represent them in the Legislature, will win at the coming election.—Prospector.

The EPITAPH agrees with its contemporary—progressive citizens are needed in the Arizona Parliament, and begs leave to present the following list from which to make a selection:

Stanley Chipman Baggs.
Stanley C. Baggs.
S. C. Baggs.
Baggs.
Baggs, the Boycotter.
Baggs, the Anti-Chinese Agitator.
Baggs, the Chinese Laundry Wrecker.
And "jest" B. Baggs.

An Associated Press dispatch from Denver, dated March 14th, states that the cattle trust of that city, of which President Head, of the International Range Association, and Ex-Governor Rout, both of Denver, are the head, have just closed a contract with the French government to supply the French army with 150,000 head of beef annually. The trust was organized shortly after the meeting of the International Range Association a year ago, and within that time has succeeded in monopolizing a part of the foreign beef trade. Very little has been said as to its transactions. The contract with the French government will be filled with cattle taken from the ranges of the West, and will be the largest contract ever filled by an American cattle company. Shipment will begin immediately to Chicago and St. Louis, where the cattle will be slaughtered. The other bidders were the Plate company of South America, the Armour, of Chicago, and a large cattle firm of Canada.

A contract has been concluded between the Great Falls Water Power Company of Montana, and the Montana Smelting Company, by which the last named corporation is to proceed with the erection of smelting furnaces at the Great Falls of the Missouri on a larger scale than has ever before been undertaken, making the largest plant of the kind in the world. The Montana Smelting Company is composed mainly of the same gentlemen who are interested in the Colorado Smelting Company of Pueblo, one of the largest establishments of Colorado. The company have acquired 240 acres of land at Great Falls, and have already purchased 2,500,000 brick, all that can be obtained at Great Falls and Helena, for the erection of their building. Contracts for the buildings and plant have already been made, 25,000 tons of material from Montana mines contracted for, and the new works will be in active operation by August of the present year. The capital stock of the new company is \$1,500,000, which will be increased as required. The plans call for the expenditure of nearly \$2,000,000 for the erection of furnaces and structures to accommodate the business that is to be done.

LAND TITLES.

ARIZONA DOCTORS DISAGREE.

The Resolutions Adopted by the Tucson Bar Call Forth Vigorous Protests from the Salt River Country.

One day last week the members of the Tucson bar held a meeting to discuss the bill now before Congress having for its object the settlement of titles to land grants and private land claims in the Territories, and after the customary Tucson method, proceeded to pass a string of resolutions as follows:

Whereas, There are in the Territory of Arizona, vast tracts of agricultural land which are covered by Mexican grants, and

Whereas, The prosperity of said territory is dependent upon action by the United States, whereby the title to said lands can once and forever be determined and adjudicated. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the bar of Pima county, Arizona Territory, earnestly recommend to congress the passage of an act establishing a court or tribunal to determine all claims to such lands and land grants, such courts to hold sessions, take testimony and hear arguments in the territories where such grants are situated, with the right to appeal from the judgment of such court or tribunal to the supreme court of the United States.

No sooner were these resolutions published than the rampant Hassayampers of the raging Salt also proceeded to "meet and resolve," their conclusions being directly opposite. Thus there seems to be a wide difference of opinion as to the proper method of settling this vexed title question. In New Mexico the people are largely in favor of the bill now pending before Congress for the establishment of a land court, while the Salt River country is holding meetings to protest against it.

Surveyor General Julian, of New Mexico, questions the wisdom of the pending bill and thinks the proposed Court entirely superfluous. He believes the Interior Department of the Government is abundantly able to cope with all the questions arising, and much better equipped for such a duty than would be the court which it is proposed to create. His plan is set forth as follows:

What is obviously wanted is a brief enactment of Congress referring all these cases to the land department for decision, on the basis of action thus supplied.

Congress refuses to adjudicate any more of them; but this certainly does not make nugatory the records thus prepared, but only necessitates their submission to another tribunal. That tribunal is at hand in the department of the interior. In urging this plan of settlement, as I have done during the past two years, I am now supported by Secretary Lam in his late annual report. He says that "as at present organized and equipped, with a slight increase of force, this department is fully equal to dealing with and determining all legal questions arising under these grants. It has at its disposal legal talents trained and familiar with questions of law, and in the habit of acting judiciously in other cases. Representing the executive power of the government, this department must, in any event, be a large participant in any action concerning these grants. The official documents, the archives, ancient and modern, relating to the public lands and foreign grants are in custody, and must remain. Such a plan, in my opinion, would be simple, inexpensive, and accomplish the settlement of these claims in a much more expeditious and satisfactory manner than any of those heretofore suggested." If these views are sound, the expensive and dilatory machinery of a court or commission is wholly superfluous. Should any such tribunal be established, it will be obliged to dispose of the cases on the papers on file in the general land office. No other method of proceeding is possible, since the witnesses are nearly all dead, and the record of their evidence must be received.

The people of this section desire this vexed land title question settled in some way, and would not object to submitting their claims to either the proposed Court or to the Interior Department. The growth of the country is being seriously retarded by unsettled titles, and the earnest desire of all is to have the question settled speedily. If the proposed Court will give relief the soonest, then we shall favor it. It is not so much a question of "how" as "when."

Another Herculean and Pompeii in Arizona.
By John A. Spring.

For the last twelve years Mr. G. W. Bandler, of Highland, Illinois, has dedicated himself almost exclusively to the careful study of the original natives of this country, and he has achieved the most brilliant results, completely overthrowing by scientific researches the old theories of the Spaniards, established and generally accepted as correct, for the last three hundred years, and he has shed a new light upon the ancient history of the Toltecs and Aztecs.

Bandler found in his last expedition to Arizona, near Los Mueros, the ruins of several cities, which according to all appearances, are the "seven cities of Cibola," of whose magnificence, great extension and enormous riches, the Aztecs made such almost fabulous reports to the Spanish conquerors.

Ferdinand and Cortez tried to find that splendid empire, but the expedition returned without having accomplished its purpose for the simple reason that already at that time the famous cities were nothing but a mass of ruins. The Aztecs had related what they knew from tradition, which is the unwritten book of record of all Indian tribes.

But there are not only seven cities which have been discovered so far, inasmuch as the whole wide valley seems to have contained a series of cities, systematically arranged in such a manner that in every case seven cities were made to

form one complex or unit. The whole valley is furthermore traversed by numerous canals which were laid out so that each of them ran through or by a city; each city contains one large temple and one common crematory in which the bodies of the dead were burned; in each complex or unit, there are six cities which are all alike, while the seventh possesses a much larger temple.

It is believed that the repetition of the number seven has a religious meaning, the more so, as the tribe of Tunis, who now inhabit that region, manifest a similar tendency in their religion. The Tunis have six deities, but these six form in themselves the seventh, regarded as chief or supreme deity, and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that the inhabitants build a smaller temple in each of the six cities and a large one in the seventh for their supreme deity.

The cities contained each space for about one thousand inhabitants, and we may calculate that in this valley alone there were no less than 200,000 souls while their probable descendants, the Zunis, have been reduced to about fifteen hundred. How it was possible that this race should have been reduced to such small numbers cannot be known at present with any degree of certainty; later on, when the ruins will have been explored with care, this riddle will probably be solved together with a great many others. It is quite possible that the empire of the seven cities met with its almost complete destruction in like manner as Herculaneum and Pompeii, near Naples, for, according to existing reports, the covering of the ruins as far as pierced consists of volcanic ashes and lava.

The most astonishing circumstance of those discoveries is, that according to the statements of the geologists this catastrophe (if such it was) must have occurred about six thousand years ago, and certain strong indications, geologic and ethnologic, go to prove that the prehistoric people were at their best during a period not less than ten thousand years previous to our time. The different utensils, instruments, drawings and statuary excavated so far, show conclusively, that if the geological estimates are correct, the Indians of the valley de Los Mueros, had attained a very high degree of civilization ten thousand years ago, and it may therefore be imagined with what feverish excitement our savants are awaiting further developments.

Messrs. Adolph Bandler and Sylvester Baxter, who have achieved great reputations as experts in antiquities, are now at the ruins in order to make diligent researches, and we will soon be further enlightened upon this recently discovered world of wonders.

There can be no doubt that this discovery will awaken an unusual interest in the whole scientific world, the more so if we call to mind that more than once the theory has been advanced that the cradle of the human race stood on the Western continent. If the fact can be established that there lived in America ten thousand years ago a race that had already then attained a high degree of civilization, the above theory will unquestionably gain such ground, and we might then call America the old Europe, Asia and Africa the new world.

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